

Hollywood MARCH 1949 VOL.7 NO.3

STAFFORD Pand WESTON



Artie Shaw has finally, and definitely, abandoned all plans to form a dance band again and has informed Hollywood pals that the next time he appears on the west coast it will be as a soloist with a symphony. Which confirms Down Beat's recent story that Sir Arthur has gone longhair-for sure.



READY TO make his debut March 1 at the Cocoanut Grove of the L. A. Hotel Ambassador is Carmen Cavallaro, who has reorganized his band and who will follow Orrin Tucker and Victor Borge on the Grove's bandstand. An added attraction for the fourweek Cavallaro engagement will be the singing Modernaires.



### March Is The Windy Month, They Say

And here's what the breezes are blowing out Hollywood way. . . . Records are still No. 1 in the news of the music world, with most of the talk spinning round the three speeds. Y'know the only way to determine which is for you? Take no heed of ads, or salesmen, or propaganda from the jockeys who are paid spot cash for boosting certain discs. Go find out for yourself. Test all three systems carefully. Check the expense of each. Investigate every aspect—and learn that the 45 r. p. m. platter is so superior that even the deaf and the blind won't hesitate in deciding That's what this column did. And it is yet to find a dissenting opinion.

### New Truman-Lee Piano Team, Mebbe

Dwight Whitney and the L. A. staff of "Time" have been digging info on the great Louis Armstrong for weeks in preparation for the big spread—and cover photo in four colors—of Satch's upsey downsey career. But Zutty Singleton and Kid Ory gave out with most of the dope which finally went to type. . . . First entertaine to be summoned to Washington for the Press Correspondents' and nual dinner (Prez Truman is "commanded" to appear in person, as past prexies always did) was buxom Iulia Lee. The venerable Kansas City blues-chanter will not only sing and play "King-Size Papa" and "I Didn't Like It The First Time" but she'll also invite Harry T to join her at the Steinway, with the press corps urging him on . . . And howcum Bill Eckstine, in a slump a year ago, suddenly i the hottest baritone in the biz?

### Don Lamond, Zoot Simms Depart The Herd

Woody Herman has lost skin-thumping Don Lamond to Harry James, and Zoot Simms also is out of the herd on tenor. But the bass spot which had to be filled with Chub Jackson's departure several weeks back has gone to Oscar Pettiford, indicating the WH rhythm section can't be in really alarming shape. . . . Eddie Safranski says he will stick with the Mad Mab, Charles Barnet, who still outjumps most all his competition despite a slight bo-peep flavor in his most recent scores. . . And Benny Goodman insists he has never felt better. Some of those eastern reports about his health had west coasters plenty perturbed.

### That Man Ventura Another Holdout

Charlie Ventura is playing hard-to-get back east-and who's to blame the guy with the big tenor pipe? Three Hollywood bistros including Berg's and the Empire have been steadily upping their bids for the CV combo until it looks now as if the Philly flash will rate top loot-and you can bet he'll be at the Empire when he lands in Filmtown in April. So will Sarah Vaughan, who is yet to atone for her fabulous flop a few seasons back. . . . Count Basie, during his run at the Cotton Club in Hollywood, has to use sub sidemen every night so that all his boys can-sometime during the week-get a night off. The union requires it when a band siaves seven nights a week.

# My Ork Won't Disband-Ellington

### Duke Says It's A Bum Rumor

Reports that Duke Ellington would disband his orchestra "in April" were denied emphatically by Duke a few days before he closed at the L. A. Million Dollar Theater.

The rumors were so widespread that they actually were printed as facts in two west coast mags. Duke, who goes east for three weeks at the N. Y. Paramount in late April, told the Cap News that he was writing the music and the "book" for a legit musical show which he hopes to present on Broadway this summer.

Duke admitted his payroll was "enormous" and that he frequently can't make any profit on band engagements. Johnny Hodges gets \$500 a week and Lawrence Brown is guaranteed \$2,000 a month whether the band works or not. But fold up? Duke says no. He wouldn't be living without that gang of guys and the constant life on the rails.

# Cole Quartet

from now on.

Costanzo, one of the best ballplayers on the Kenton team of last summer, is said to be a permanent and Irving Ashby, guitar.

field, W. Va., will promote the en- all noted for their bop-burps. travels, see Page 4.



REEDS, REEDS, Reeds . . . they drive a man nuts. Benny Goodman has his troubles finding the right cane as he and his band prepare for their March 1 opening at the Hollywood Palladium. Is Goodman a bopper??? Californians will soon find out for themselves.

## Is BG Really Bopping? Now It's The Coasters Soon To Know

Hollywood, and the Palladium, year in New York, will play the Palladium four weeks. He also Stan Kenton's bongo star, on March 1, was being await- plans to play San Francisco this lack Costanzo, joined the King ed eagerly not only by Benny's spring, and undertake a road tour Cole Trio last month in a sur- fans but also by the general which will shoot him north as far prise move which pretty well public because of the publicity as Vancouver, B. C. makes it the King Cole quartet given the recently-formed BG Goodman band will record a batch crew in New York.

There are reports that Goodman, who just wound up a Benny Carter Back addition to the Cole combo, which run in Las Vegas at the swank also includes Joe Comfort on bass Hotel Flamingo, is playing a certain amount of bop with Buddy Leader Nat also announces a Greco, piano; Wardell Gray, tenor, "big" band again in Los Angeles coming tour of the southern states and Eddie Bert and Milt Bernhardt, and will probably follow Count for the May 26 to June 17 period. trombone soloists who last year Basie at the new Hollywood Cot-One man, Ralph Weinberg of Blue- were featured with Stan Kenton, ton Club in late March. The multi-

moved his wife and daughters back a brand new book.

Benny Goodman's return to to the west coast after nearly a

While in Hollywood, the new of new discs for Capitol.

## Again With Big Ork

Benny Carter is rehearsing a talented Carter is using the best tire series. For more news of Cole's Goodman, who already has jazzmen in Southern California and



THE BATTERED BRIDE comes out of the kitchen, victor in a culinary tussle with a recipe. Margaret Whiting still sings her songs on records and radio but she's been learning a trick or three as a housewife, too, since her recent marriage to CBSer Hub Robinson. The Robinsons plan a long stay in New York later this spring.

# Kenton Rests In Brazil

Making a sudden decision to "get away from it all" and concluding that he could best make up his mind as to his plans for the future, Stan Kenton sailed for Brazil on Feb. 7 from New Orleans.

Accompanied by his wife, Violet, Kenton said he didn't know how long he would be gone. "Maybe six weeks," he said. "Maybe ting down at the Hollywood Emsix months."

Kenton broke up his band last December and has been undecided as to his next move. Rumors persist—and Stan does not deny them that he may turn to the study of psychiatry. But there's also the chance that he will be back as a bandleader again this summer.



THE GIRL Scouts of America intend to go all-out the night of March 12 at the organization's 37th birthday party, to be aired nationally from the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium.

More than 8,000 are expected to watch lo Stafford. Gary Moore, Dick Haymes, the Starlighters and Paul Weston. lo and Paul, this month's cover team, regularly team together -and so do the Starlighters-Tuesdays on NBC's "Supper Club" and Thursdays via ABC on the Revere show, as well as on scads of best-selling Capitol shellac plates.

The Andrews Sisters open June 29 at the N. Y. Roxy Theater for three weeks and then head for Europe again. They broke it up last summer at the London Palladium. This year, they'll also do concerts in other countries.

Duke Ellington's recent tour along the west coast made him more money than any similar trip of his career. His business was virtually turnaway in every town. He's soon to return east after sitpire for a rest.

Nat Cole opens March 1 at Andre's in Syracuse, N. Y. for a week and on March 9 goes into the New York Paramount Theater with his "quartet" for at least a fortnight. His combo just wound up a series of boffy concerts with Woody Herman's band.

Pert Connie Haines did a gang of television shows before leaving her home in Hollywood for a March opening at the New York Copacabana. She'll be featured on the same bill with Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis.

## Capitol Offers New '45 Discs' Soon

## 7-Inch Platter Ready In April

Starting in April, many of the records produced by Capitol will be available on the newly-perfected 45 r. p. m.

Announcement that Capitol has decided to market the smaller (7-inch) and slowerplaying platter—in addition to the conventional 10-inch disc which plays at 78 r. p. m. and which has been "standard" in the record field for nearly 50 years. came from Clenn E. Wallichs, Capitol president.

### Many Advantages, He Says

"Our decision was reached," said Wallichs, "after exhaustive research and tests. The 45 r. p. m. record is, in our opinion, superior because of its advantages in sound reproduction, unbreakability, space and weight. The 45 r. p. m. changer-player used in playing the new discs is a mechanism that will provide the finest method of reproduction and give the public, in the years to come, the ultimate in satisfaction and enjoyment.

"Capitol also will continue to same machines. produce its orthodox 78 r. p. m. records and will concentrate on them as enthusiastically as in the

### Player-Changer Ready Too

"We believe there will be a strong public demand for the conventional record for years to come and that it will account for the major share of the industry's output. There are nearly 20 million phonographs in use today employing 78 speed. Capitol will continue graphs."

Wallichs disclosed, also, that Capitol would soon market a small,



FRANKIE LAINE (at right) will return to share a "Supper Club" mike with Peggy Lee in late April over NBC. Peggy and her husband Dave Barbour, who leads the band on her Thursday night shots, are shown with Laine on a recent airing from Hollywood. The Barbours have a hit record in their current Capitol cutting of "Blum, Blum."

corporate the new 45-speed design into their 1949 and future model instruments, Wallichs added.

similar to the forthcoming RCA-Victor series of 45 r. p. m. platters, and will be playable on the Kenton musicians including

Preview showings of the new 45 r. p. m. discs in a dozen key cities have brought incredibly unanimous be the next attraction at the raves from record dealers, news- Hollywood Empire, where paper reviewers, disc jocks and the musicians and singers who will be featured. The seven-inch disc represents the most radical innovation in the history of the recording industry. The hole in the center of the platter is much larger than the conventional disc, and the changer is the fastest and most foolproof to produce discs for those phono- of any ever devised; records cannot be broken.

### Only The Best-Wallichs

Wallichs pointed out that the compact, smartly-designed player- business of Capitol is to provide changer machine expressly de- recorded entertainment whether it signed to play the new 45-speed be on discs, wire, tape, film or any records. It will be inexpensive, other means. The decision to make and satisfaction to the consumer, Many of the nation's manufactur- the 45 record was based solely on he said. ers of radio, television and phono the belief that it would give the sets already are preparing to in- best results in value, performance next month.

## **Ex-Kentons** Previews Bring Raves The new Capitol records will be For Empire?

Seven or eight former Stan Art Pepper, Bob Cooper, Harry Betts and Chico Alvarez may Louie lordan's band is current.

June Christy, also a former Kentonite and the wife of Cooper, may also be featured. The Empire, which unshuttered last December with Woody Herman and which has followed with Billy Eckstine-Georgie Auld and the Duke Ellington crew, is operated by Gene Norman. He said the Kenton "allstar" combo would open about March 15 unless a last-minute hitch developed. Charlie Ventura and Sarah Vaughan also are booked for late spring, he asserted.

And so, they'll be in the stores



OKAY FOR Kay . . . that's the decision as Kay Starr and Morris Stoloff of Columbia Pictures film a scene for the forthcoming "Make Believe Ballroom" movie in which Kay is featured along with Frankie Laine, lack Smith, the King Cole Trio, Pee-Wee Hunt, Charlie Barnet, Jimmy Dorsey ,Jan Garber and Alphonse Jarvis of KLAC. Kay does her own "Starring Kay Star" program every Monday over ABC.

# **Luckies Strike Sinatra** Right Off The Radio

Lucky Strike cigs just cancelled Frank Sinatra from the high-budget "Hit Parade" program in an unexpected move which may indicate that the tobacco bigwigs are planning to put more of their money into advertising via television.

Sinatra will go off the program as soon as his present 39-week contract runs out. If the "Hit Parade" remains on the net every Saturday, and it looks now as if the entire show will fade, cheaper singers

Sinatra still is planning to appear in London this summer and his agents are out trying to line up a new air sponsor for him. Lucky Strike also cancelled its daytime Don Ameche musical show, abruptly, because it couldn't compete against soap operas. Ameche had uncovered many deserving young performers in the 13 weeks he emseed it. Frankie's final broadcast will be on May 24.

# ... HEAR THEM NOW AT YOUR FAVORITE DEALER

## Telefunken Classics Due On March 14

The world's finest classical music, including outstanding symphonies, singers, chamber groups, conductors, choral groups and opera troupes, soon will be presented for the first time on Capitol platters as a result of the recent agreement through which Capitol will release the famous German Telefunken discs in the U.S.A.

March 14 is the date for the first release, comprised of five albums and four single plates.

### On New Wine-Red Label

Simultaneously, Capitol will introduce its new wine-red classical label. All of the new classical Telefunken series sides will, at first, be pressed on the conventional 78 r. p. m. speed, 12-inch discs. Starting in April or May, however, the entire Capitol-Telefunken output will also be available on the newlydesigned and smaller 45 r. p. m. records which Cap it introducing next month in the popular field.

Erna Sack, world-renowned soprano with a range of six octaves above a hummingbird, is featured in one of the five new albums; Franz Lehar operettas comprise the second album, Beethoven's popular "Eroica" Symphony No. 3, conducted by Willem Mengelberg, constitutes a third package and Paul Hindemith's "Mathias The Painter," conducted by the composer himself is the fourth. Also to be released in album form this month is the Bruckner "Mass In E. Minor."

The Capitol-Telefunken agreement calls for a reciprocal exchange of discs, thus giving Capitol access to one of the finestand most valuable-collections of recorded art in the world. Telefunken, likewise, is distributing Capitol's popular records in certain portions of Europe.

# Music Out Of Filmers' Doghouse

### Major Studios Hypo Activity

Activity in the music departments of the big Hollywood film studios is slowly perking, although a long way from nor-

Paramount's music chief, Lou Lipstone, is overseeing assignments on seven films.

### Vic Young For 'Victory'

Victor Young has been assigned to compose and conduct the score for Hal Wallis' "Bitter Victory"; recording of the score for "Bride Of Vengeance" is under way with Irvin Talbot conducting the Hugo Friedhofer score: Robert Emmett Dolan has started work on the score for the Bing Crosby starrer. "Top O' The Morning." Joe Lilley has been assigned as music director for two new films. He will handle the Bob Hope starrer, "The Great Lover'' (formerly "Easy Does It"), and has started composing the score. His other assignment is "Red Hot and Blue."

William Wyler's "The Heiress" goes into the music dubbing stage following completion of score recording by Aaron Copland, Darrell Calker has been signed to compose and conduct the score for Pine-Thomas' "Manhandled"

### Steiner On 'Flamingo Road'

Six composers are at work on seven pix at Warner Brothers, the massive Burbank studio which has been deathly quiet recently. Franz Waxman is cleffing original music for the Gary Cooper "Task Force" picture and David Buttolph is doubling up on "Montana" and "Colorado Territory." Max Steiner is doing the music for "Flamingo Road." Johnny Green is conducting the orchestra and making musical arrangements for "Happy Times." William Lava is handling the music for "This Side Of The Law." Ray Heindorf, head of Warners' music department, is directing the music Julie Styne and Sammy Cahn.



THE HAPPIEST man in the world-lack Smith-reveals here why he sings thataway on his nightly CBS series from Hollywood. Jack will be heard amid this distracting setting in Columbia's "Make-Believe Ballroom" film. He'll also start playing baseball this month with the Capitol Records team-California's weather permitting.

Twentieth-Fox is winding up shooting on "You're My Everything," its biggest musical of the year starring Dan Dailey and Anne Baxter. Alfred Newman, music head at the studio, is all through recording the tunes for the soundtrack. Eddie Miller's hot tenor sax within the 90-piece orchestra offers an incongruous sight.

### But Thousands Are Jobless

Songwriters Johnny Burke and James Van Heusen moved over to RKO Feb. 17 to write the score make biscuits for Capitol last for an untitled musical. Sid Rogell has scheduled it for an April 15

MGM will soon start shooting "Annie Get Your Gun" with Judy Garland, Keenan Wynn and others, the biggest musical on tap at the Lion's lair so far in '49.

for "It's A Great Feeling," songs of 14,000 musicians in Los Angeles wood with a combo featuring for which have been written by AFM Local 47, more than 10,000 Bumps Myers, Henry Coker and are still said to be strictly jobless. other instrumentalists.

# Two New Stars

One of the most highly regarded young clarinetists in the world, Buddy DeFranco, and Betty Hall Jones, for years a favorite west coast pianist and singer, signed contracts to month. Their first records will be out in early March.

DeFranco recorded his first sides in New York. He shot into prominence during the war when he was featured with Tommy Dorsey's band. Miss Jones, who has written songs for Nellie Lutcher and other Things are picking up. But out topflight stars, recorded in Holly-

# Capitol Hits

Hits G'Em? GET EM!

BLUM BLUM (I wonder who I am) - Peggy Lee 'HERE I'LL STAY' - Jo Stafford 'SO IN LOVE' - Gordon MacRae 'FAR AWAY PLACES'- Margaret Whiting 'THE HOT CANARY'- Paul Weston 'LEMON DROP'- Woody Herman 'YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE'- Kay Starr 'IT'S A BIG WIDE WONDERFUL WORLD' -Margaret Whiting & Jack Smith 'THE NEW ASHMOLEAN'- Johnny Mercer 'PORTRAIT OF JENNY'- King Cole Trio 'NO ORCHIDS FOR MY LADY'-Jan Garber 'SUI SIN FA' - Smokey Rogers 'I LOVE YOU SO MUCH IT HURTS' - Jimmy Wakely 'CANDY KISSES'- Eddie Kirk HERE'S A LITTLE GIRL FROM JACKSONVILLE'- Blue Lu Barker

WHILE THE ANGELUS WAS RINGING - Margaret Whiting 'CRUISING DOWN THE RIVER'-Jack Smith 'CARELESS HANDS'- Mel Tormé 'YOU WAS'- Peggy Lee & Dean Martin 'MOLLY O'REILLY'- Clark Dennis 'LAVENDER BLUE (Dilly Dilly)'-Jack Smith 'NEED YOU'- Jo Stafford & Gordon MacRae 'GALWAY BAY'- Clark Dennis 'FOREVER AND EVER'- Margaret Whiting 'SIXTY-TWO LADIES IN SEA GREEN PAJAMAS'- The Starlighters JOHNNY GET YOUR GIRL' Dean Martin 'TILL THE END OF THE WORLD' -Jimmy Wakely 'TENNESSEE BORDER'-Tennessee Ernie 'SUNFLOWER'- Deuce Spriggens 'THE SPINACH SONG'- Julia Lee

# Tennessean Hits Western Jackpot 50 Radio Jocks MEET THE JOCKEY! WILLIAM W. PIERCE III is the

## Cap Contract To Ernie Ford

By LEE GILLETTE

From the hills of Tennessee to the hills of Pasadena, California, is quite a jump. But even greater is the trek from Pasadena to a long-term contract with Capitol Records, Inc. This has just been achieved by Tennessee Ernie, whose current series of broadcasts over KXLA is creating a sock following, and a monstrous mail

Ernest J. Ford (that's Tennessee's real name) first came west in April of 1946, and he landed his first job as a jockey on a small station in San Bernardino, Cal. Last April, he launched his present show on KXLA, in Pasadena.

### Spriggins Also Set On Wax

he spins and he also adds fans by own original ditties, "I've Got the singer. Milk 'Em In The Morning Blues."



TENNESSEE ERNIE really hails from Tennessee. A native of Bristol, he has just made his debut as a Capitol recording star. Ernie can spin tunes as well as sing 'em. moreover. He is regularly featured as a disc jockey on a Pasadena

A native of Bristol, Tenn., Er-packing them in on one-nighters, its to London, Paris, Rome, Geneva nie sings along with the records and sometime this month your Brussels and other cities. western columnist will dust the making personal appearances. His lint off his chaps and mosey down busiest schedules in Hollywood as first record for Cap couples "Ten- to Dallas to record a batch of new an arranger and ork leader on the nessee Border" with one of his wax by the Humpty-Dumpty Heart Jack Smith and Jack Carson air-

### Tommy Duncan In L. A.

it) Spriggins, long one of the top month didn't keep the crowds seas. He and Mrs. DeVol already entertainers with the Tex Wil- from flocking to Dave Ming's 97th have booked passage back to New liams Western Caravan, also will Street Corral to dig Tommy Dun- York on the Queen Mary for Aug. be featured as a single on Capi- can, just back from a banner tour 10, in time to start his fall radio of the Pacific Northwest. The schedules.

former singer with Bob Wills man have a hit disc with his current "Worried Over You" and "I'm Thru Wastin' Time On You" faces on Cap.

And as for Cliffie Stone, who manages western acts, writes hit tunes, leads his own Barn Dance band, jockeys over KFVD and KRKD and emsees his own KXLA "Dinner Bell Roundup" stanza daily, he is now a television star. Southern Californians can water him-if they have a large-size screen-every Thursday night over KFI-TV with his "Dinner Bell

And so, off to Dallas.

# **Europe Trip**

Frank DeVol will enjoy his first vacation in five years when he sails for Europe on July 3 Hank Thompson is back in Texas with his wife Gravce, for vis-

DeVol, who handles one of the shows, and on Cap discs and transcriptions, also may do a guest Duece (that's the way he spells California's 'cool' spell last stint as a conductor while over-

## **EXCLUSIVE FEATURES!**

Patented V-groove Locking feature on Shaft

Resilient Nylon Arm Filters Record Scratch

Permium (Osmium Alloy) Tip for Long Life

MICROMETER PRECISION AND DESIGN

# Will Be Seen In 'Platter' Musica

jocks will be seen and heard in and directing.

The film will be released nationally next August 15 and, according to Staub, will be shown in 5,000 theaters within the United States alone.

### And More To Be Shot!

"On April 7," Staub told the Cap News, "I'll be leaving Hollywood on a long trip east during which time we'll contact scores of jockeys in various cities. In New York, for example, we will cover everybody from 6-year-old Robin Morgan of WOR to the veteran Norman Brokenshire of WNBC. who has been in radio since there was radio in the 1920's."

Staub already has footage on 14 Hollywood jocks, including Gene Norman, Don Otis, Tom Hanlon, Steve Allen, Frank Bull, Pete Potter, Johnny Grant, Alex Cooper, Wild Bill Anson, Jim Hawthorne, "The Jedge" on KHI, Dick Haynes, Zeke Manners and Bob McLaugh-

Other western spinners who will be included in Staub's celluloid are Al (Jazzbo) Ccliins, Marshall Small, Harry Warren, Buddy Heyde, Bill Gavin, Bob Goerner, Don Davis and Lee Giroux.

### Thinks Jocks Box-Office

Staub is convinced that the d. i. is perfect subject material for pictures, and that a good many Americans are more interested in their

jocks will be photographed by a waxings.

More than 50 American disc Columbia camera crew. Letters suggesting the names of popular jocks for his film project will a forthcoming Columbia movie reach Staub at Columbia Pictures, feature, "Spin That Platter," 1438 North Gower, Hollywood which Ralph Staub is producing (28) Cal. He admits he hasn't yet his own, including much classical completed the list.

### Not First Time On Film

The same studio, six years ago, turned out "Reveille With Beverly," a musical based on a female Harry lames Seeks jockette with sequences by Duke Ellington, Freddie Slack, Ella Mae New Girl Vocalist Morse and others. It was a coinsnatcher. Columbia also recently test to find a girl singer. On his made ."Make Believe Ballroom" based on the daily platter show of Casino Gardens, at Ocean Park, Al larvis in Los Angeles.

he'll be sure to have a winning Morgan's spot with the winner to film. The jocks alone will fill all be chosen March 27. The band the theaters.

formal name of "Cousin Will," who spins discs over WNEB in Worcester, Mass.

No lowbrow. Pierce has taught English and music, and himself hails from Bowdoin. Unmarried and now 28, he



mixes up his discs to avoid monotony; his listeners hear Julia Lee follow a Peggy Lee vocal. Pierce has a great wax library of fare. And his daily Hoopers are soaring.

Harry James is conducting a concurrent stand (weekends only) at Cal., he's listening to audition If Staub keeps on shooting, discs of candidates for Marion goes on tour in April.



THE STARLIGHTERS, five strong, have won enough polls in relocal wax-whirler favorites than cent months to establish them as the number one vocal combo. they are in many big network per- Flanking Pauline Byrns here are Jerry Duane, Vince Degen, Howard Hudson and Tony Paris. For a sample of their harmony latch a tab His trip will include visits to to the Tuesday night "Supper Club" and Thursday eve Revere Camera various cities, where still more show airings with Jo Stafford and Paul Weston. Or any of their Capitol

### Fidelitone FLOATING POINT NYLON NEE Only \$725 NOW ON SALE AT ALL CAPITOL DEALERS

Produced by PERMO, INC., Chicago



IT WAS February at the Rag Doll in Chicago for Nellie Lutcher. who got a loving sendoff from her Los Angeles home last month from her son, Talmadge, and sister, Mrs. Florida Morgan. Nellie composed her recent "My Little Boy" ditty with young Talmadge in mind. On March 17, the real gone gal goes into the Chicago Oriental Theater for three weeks.

## Nature Boy Only Wants To Love . . . And Be Loved

The original Nature Boy is a bit unhappy with life in general and people in particular these days.

Eden Ahbez says he wishes "folks would let a guy live his own life." But they keep pestering him, and his background. Ahbez last month admitted he was born Alexander Aberle in Brooklyn, and that he was sent to Chanute, Kan., when he was 7. In Chanute, he lived with a family named McGrew and he was reared as "George McGrew."

Then, Ahbez, or McGrew, or Aberle adds, when he was 11 he moved west to California. "I have had my legal name of Aberle changed in Judge Joseph Vickers' court to Eden Ahbez. All I want from life is to be able to compose, and be with my wife and my baby." His latest tune, he disclosed, is "Land Of Love."

Ahbez has never made any money from his "Nature Boy" song. The royalties are tied up because of a lawsuit. Just leave him alone and he'll love everybody.

The Great Classics of Europe





ELLA MAE MORSE is back in the States. The Texas-born singer married a navy officer during the war and has been living on Guam. But last month they were ordered to Valleio. Cal. Ella Mae's fans—and she's had a mob of 'em ever since she etched "Cow-Cow Boogie" nearly seven years ago-may write to her at 17 Tang Street in Val-

name for the fifth time on Feb stein, Candy Toxton, Linda How-12 in Chicago when she up and ard and Brooke Chase who, just wed young Mel Torme. The new before her wedding, was even betand beauteous Mrs. Torme (see ter known as Susan Perry. photo) has appeared in films under various tags, including Candy Toxton, Linda Howard, Brooke Chase and, more recently, as Susan Perry.

They'll live in Hollywood, Mel is booked for the Blue Note in Chicago for two weeks starting Cowboy Movie

Big Jimmy Rushing is still shouting the blues as few men ever way of radio and films, will have. The rotund Oklahoma per- play a singing cowpoke shortly former, in Hollywood with Count when he stars in "Dusty Trail," a Basie again at the Cotton Club, western. Les Cowan will prohas been singing professionally duce it. some 25 years, and few are the youngsters around who can cut

And Al Hibbler and Kay Davis are continuing as Duke Ellington's vocalists, despite various reports that calists, despite various reports that 17 Months For Ray Nance occasionally contributes a song, too, but seems far more effective as a straight trumpeter and fiddler.

Bing Crosby itching to toss a few balls with the Pittsburgh Pirates, who will begin training here this month. The Groaner and his boys believe the club will finish no worse than second in the National League this season.



NUPTIAL BLISS is exhibited by Mr. and Mrs. Mel Torme, who were wed last month in Chicago. Florence Tockstein changed her She's the former Florence Tock-

-Photo by Gene Howard

# It's the first marriage for both. Haymes To Do

Dick Havmes, who hasn't had much to do lately in the

Chico Marx has been set as Haymes' pal. It also indicates that, after 37 years together in show business, the Marx Brothers have finally split up officially.

# Garber In L. A.

Jan Garber's original run of 12 weeks at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel has developed into a marathon stay. The North Carolina leader now is in his seventeenth month without a miss, and will remain there indefinitely. The hostelry also throws in a floor show for good measure.



SOME OF Los Angeles' 14.000 professional musicians were irked, others were delighted, enough money to pay off the mubut few who read Earl Wil- sicians. Dizzy raced off to San son's recent syndicated col- Francisco but was due back in umn which quoted Tommy L. A. for the March 1 week at the Million Dollar Theater. Dorsey on modern jazz were left unmoved by TD's blunt views.

ing reporting gossip and news of Previn at the MCM lot-and at the Manhattan saloon circuit, each other's houses when they asked Dorsey what he thought of aren't working. bebop.

"It stinks." the Irish trombone back 20 years. Go over and ask any of these boppers to play the melody of 'America' and I'll bet tone. All they want to do is find out how many funny sounds they can get out of an instrument. They don't know what they're mount, "Broadway Bill," starts doing.

"I wandered into one joint where they play it." Dorsey went on, "and it was so dark I was going to send home to Pennsylvania for my miner's lamp. Musically, bebop sounds like a lot of guys practicing.

the basement, or the back door, finest collections of jazz platters) for years. Benny Goodman came won't be able to accept an invite along and brought them out of the from the N. Y. St. Patrick's Day basement. Let's keep them out of Society. His Revere Camera prothe basement."

Berg's Hollywood club shortly after for the March 17 festivities.

Berg let Dizzy Gillespie's band go. Business was so bad with Gillespie, Berg said, he didn't take in

Friendliest cutting sessions in California these days are those Wilson, who makes his liv- pitting Mel Powell against Andre

Russ Morgan, who broke up his player snapped. "It has set music band several weeks ago and took a long vacation in Hollywood, resumes this month. He'll head to Texas to appear with Dorothy Shay they can't do it. They've got no March 17 at the Shamrock Hotel in Houston.

> Frank Capra's first pic for Parathis month. Bing Crosby will star.

Jerry Colonna and his trombone off to the Adams Theater, Newark, for March 3-9 week.

Clark Dennis of the high tenor "Musicians had to go in through pipes (who has one of the world's gram over ABC with Jo Stafford, Paul Weston's ork and the Star-Illinois Jacquet opened at Billy lighters precludes his taking off



BENNY COODMAN: Palladium. LOUIE JORDAN: H'wood Empire.

COUNT BASIE: Cotton Club.

HARRY JAMES: Casino Gardens, weekends only.

WINCY MANONE: Wingy's.

KID ORY: Beverly Cavern. RED NICHOLS: Hangover.

PETE DAILY: Sardi's Monkey Room.

ILLINOIS JACQUET: Berg's.

IAN CARBER: Hotel Biltmore.

CARMEN CAVALLERO: Cocoanut Grove.

**BULL MOOSE JACKSON: Cricket** 

ZUTTY SINGLETON: Club 47. DICK STABILE: Slapsy Maxie's.

MEET THE JOCKEY!

"JAZZBO" is the name Al Collins uses on his zany KNAK programs daily in Salt Lake City. He's



advises listeners to "drop dead twice" when they phone a request; his idea of a good show is one where he picks all his own wax. Al plays

the goof who

guitar, promotes jazz concerts, insults sponsors, wrestles professionally, lures visiting celebrities to his mike and is perhaps one of the most disliked characters in Utah. But the "peasants," as he calls his listeners, buy whatever he sells. "A nauseating public menace," he is described. But they listen to him-and his guff-and he's always sponsored. There must be other ways to make a living!

# WHOO'S WHERE The Count Is Cool; It Happens In Sunny California **Unworried By Trend**



COUNT BASIE can't get excited about bop 'cause he thinks there are all kinds of good music-and room for all. The genial Red Bank pianist has been playing in Hollywood at the new Cotton Club nitery. And there's very little bop come along. Then the excitement in his 1949 book.

### Conniff Prepping New L. A. Combo

Ray Conniff, trombonist and arranger for Artie Shaw and others, ley, who operates the spot, beis rehearsing a new band in L. A. comprised of four brass, four reeds and four rhythm. Conniff is slant- have folded, and the heavy "nut" ing it for hotel work; the style is entailed is being eyed anxiously by

### Lager' Show Folds

shows in California, Lucky Lager's The scloists are above par if not "Dance Time" with Ira Cook, quite the equal of the Youngs, faded from KFAC last month. Don Claytons, Joneses, Evanses and Otis and Bill Ewing emseed it be- Pages of past editions. fore and during the war for the beer sponsor.

We're just going through an experimental period in pon music. That's why the stuff you hear these days is all mixed up, confused, hard to classify

That's what Count Basie believes. The great New Jersey pianist and leader, who has seen styles come and go for more than 20 years, isn't in the least alarmed about the future of music.

"Bop? Well, it's a little different and the kids like it. Raymond Scott got the same reaction with his huckleberry stuff in 1937, and Glenn Miller's clarinet atop saxes created a big stir, and then around 1942 all the kids were trying to imitate Harry James' trumpet.

"Music has a way of leveling off, smoothing out. There are all kinds of music. As long as it is well-played that's all that matters. There is room for bop, for Dixieland, for Dave Rose and for

"Next year a new music will will start all over again."

Basie has been playing the new Cotton Club in Hollywood with his band. Formerly known as the Florentine Gardens, the Cotton Club has a line of girls, several top acts and a weekly talent budget of around \$5,500. Harold Stanlieves it can be successful. But other Hollywood niteries have been wobbling the past year, many similar to the old Isham Jones ork, rivals who predict Stanley will soon have to feature less expensive attractions.

Basie's band as always, has One of the oldest disc jockey proved impressive. It still swings.

Jimmy Rushing and Earl Warren do the vocals.





ERNIE FELICE insists that there is nothing-but nothing-of political significance in this candid shot of a beat donkey. Seems that the heat down Palm Springs (Cal.) way simply was too much. The big man at left is Felice's clarinetist, Dick Anderson, who has also been heard on several Kay Starr platters. Then, left to right, are Felice himself, Dick Fisher, guitar, and new bassist Rollie Bundock, who was a Glenn Miller star before the war. The Felice combo has been turning 'em away at Bering's in Palm Springs.

(All Photos By Otto Rothschild.)

ANDY RUSSELL, Buddy Cole and Della Russell are all together on a spanking new series of waxes featuring the ingratiating "Mr. and Mrs." act the Russells are using so successfully in America's best niteries. Cole plays the piano and leads the band; this shot was made last month right on the session. The King Sisters also have been recording with Russell and Cole "I'm Beginning To Miss You" and "Yuk-A-Puk" have just been released by Cap.



SCAT MAN Crothers, as zany as they come, plucks his gitbox and hums like a hummingbird. He, too, just recorded in Hollywood for Capitol. Crothers is grabbing five bills a week as a nitery comic.

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## A Long Way From West Point



GORDON MacRAE takes five between masters on a Hollywood waxing session. The sharp-shooting baritone (he recently sank a hole-in-one) lives a hectic life between his recording, radio and movie-making schedules. Warner Brothers will co-star Gordie with Jack Carson

in a comedy musical, "West Point," which rolls next May. The pic will be made at the U. S. Military Academy and songs will be by Julie Styne and Sammy Cahn. That's coming a long way from being an NBC page—a job Gordie had not too many seasons back.